JUMP COMICS DELUXE

# KUROZUKA

## —黒塚— 10

[原作]夢枕獏 [作画]野口賢

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「この扉の中へは入るな」
かつて赤帝に、そう言われた
部屋の扉を潜るクロウ…。
中には赤帝、
そして一千年以上も
追い続けた、あの黒蜜が!!
追われ続けた記憶——
闘い続けた歴史——
有為転変の伝奇ロマン、
堂々完結!!

10

黒塚
KUROZUKA
10
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[作画]野口賢

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# 10

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この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

Chapter 38: Black Mound
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU.

AH...

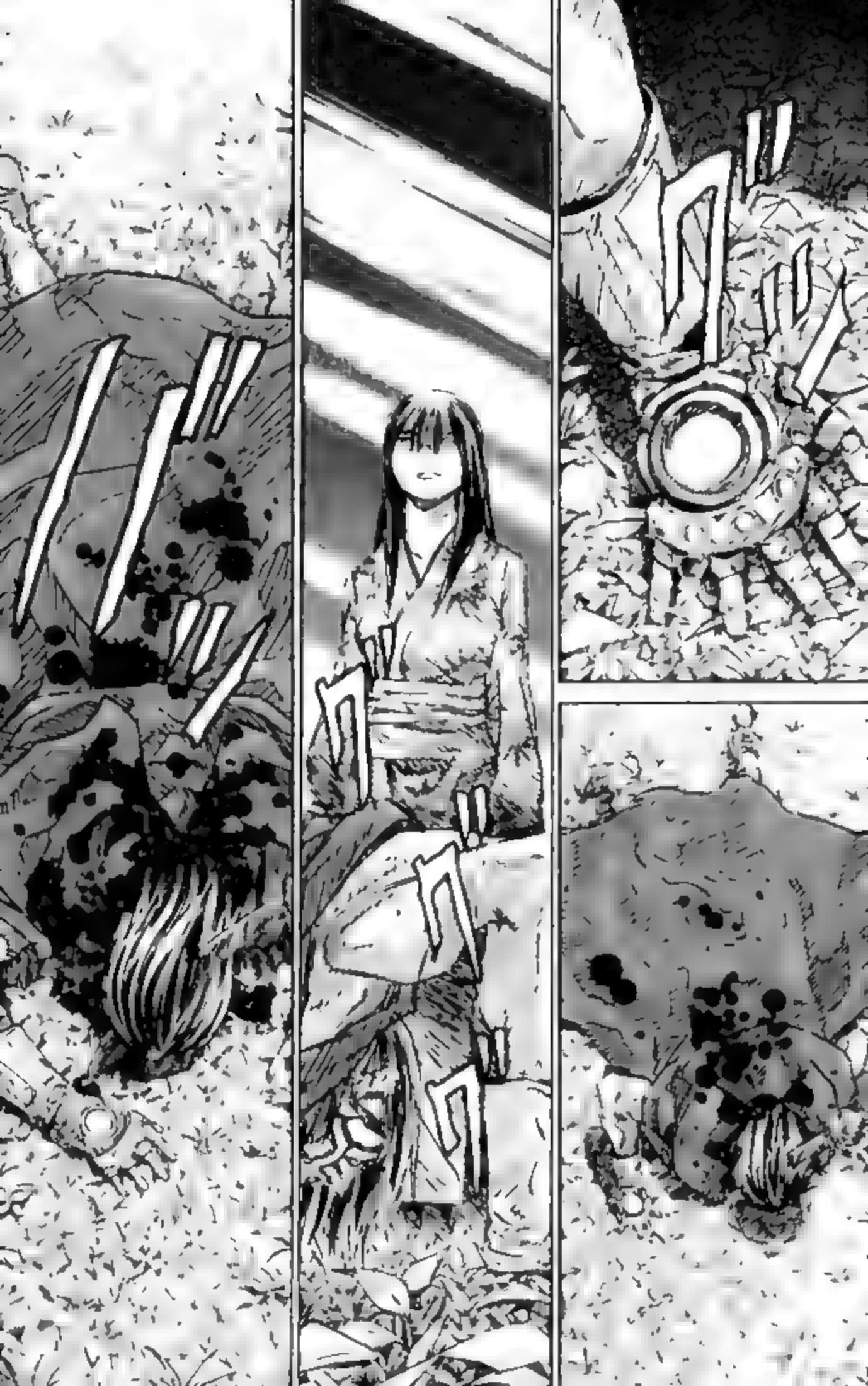
FORGIVE ME.

YO...

YO...

ドク
ドク
ボロ
ボロ
AH...

AH...
AH...
ハア



KUROU!!

IT'S AL-RIGHT!
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET YOU DIE!!

THAT VOICE IN MY EAR.
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S SENDING MY PAIN FAR AWAY.
I WON'T ALLOW IT!!
A VOICE I'VE YEARNED FOR.

THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ALL THIS TIME.
A WARMTH I'VE MISSED.
A TOUCH I HAVEN'T FELT IN A LONG TIME.
AH, THIS IS IT.

AND NOW,
I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT.
I ALREADY HAVE A BODY FOR YOU. YOU CAN USE IT INSTEAD.
USE IT?
WHAT WAS IT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY-THING ELSE.
WHAT WAS SHE SAYING ABOUT A BODY?
I'LL BE FINE.
AS LONG AS I CAN STAY LIKE THIS,

KUROU!
I'M FINE JUST LIKE THIS.
A WOMAN'S VOICE.
IT'S RAI.

TONBA!
KUROMITSU-SAMA!
KUROU IS...
HELP HIM.
IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED ANY HELP.
I FEEL GREAT.

MY CONSCIOUSNESS IS FADING.
AH... I CAN HEAR SOMETHING
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?! IT'S SOME KIND OF MACHINE.

I CAN FEEL MY HEAD BEING GRASPED.

ミシッ

ミシッ

HOW LONG,

HAS SHE BEEN DOING THAT?

CALLING MY NAME....

OVER AND OVER,

AND A WOMAN'S VOICE WHISPERING IN MY EAR.

WITH MY CHEEK,

RESTING AGAINST THEIR CHEST,

ミミミ
ヲヲヲ
ォォォ

I SEEM TO REMEMBER BECOMING A MERE HEAD.
WHAT WAS I?
YOU ARE NOT COMPLETE.
WHAT WAS MY NAME?

WHO WAS IT? WAIT,
BEFORE YOUR BLOOD WAS ABLE TO MIX COMPLETELY,
YOUR HEAD WAS CUT OFF.
HE BETRAYED ME,
IT WAS MUSASHI.
I KNOW WHO.
DURING THE KAMAKURA ATTACK.

WHY AM I LIKE THIS?
THAT'S WHAT KUROMITSU SAID WHEN I WAS A HEAD.
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
I EXPLAINED IT TO YOU ALREADY AND YOU AGREED,
SO THAT WE COULD SPEND ALL OUR TIME TOGETHER.

LIKE YOURS?
BUT THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH THE PROCESS, EVEN AFTER RUNNING ALL THAT WAY, I COULDN'T GIVE YOU THE SAME BODY AS MINE.
YES.
AND YOUR BODY WOULD BE COMPLETE, LIKE MINE...
FIRST, I SUCKED YOUR BLOOD.
THEN IF YOU DRANK MINE, OUR BLOOD WOULD MIX,

BUT BEFORE OUR BLOOD COULD MIX TOGETHER,
YOUR HEAD WAS CHOPPED OFF.
THAT'S WHY I GRABBED YOUR HEAD,
AND HAD TO LEAVE YOUR BODY SO I COULD RUN.

CUT OFF HIS NECK,
AFTERWARDS, SHE KILLED A SOLDIER,
THREW IT AWAY,
AND THEN ATTACHED MY HEAD TO THE BODY.

BUT MY HEAD'S IN-COMPLETE.
AND THE BODY WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MERE MORTAL'S.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK THE PROBLEM IS...
THE PROBLEM?

EVEN WITH A NEW BODY, MY PERSONALITY WOULD SUDDENLY CHANGE.
THE PROBLEM OF YOU SOMETIMES LOOSING YOUR MEMORY.
WHERE WE DRINK EACH OTHER'S BLOOD.
AND WE'D DO THE RITUAL AGAIN.

MY FACE AND BODY,
APPEARED TO LOOK YOUNG FOREVER.
BUT...
BUT EVEN WITH THAT, MY BODY WAS NEVER LIKE KUROMITSU'S.
MY BODY WOULD BECOME WEAK.
AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS,

AND MY IMMORTALITY WOULD WEAR OFF LIKE IT WAS TIRED.
IT WOULD AGE.
AND KUROMITSU WOULD REPLACE THE HEAD.
THEN WE WOULD GO FIND A NEW BODY.

WOULD MY MEMORIES RETURN.
BUT ONLY WHEN I WAS A HEAD
BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAY AS A HEAD,
FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT THOSE WERE SHORT INTERVALS,
AND WHEN I WAS, IT'D BE THE SAME THING.

WON'T YOU LET ME DIE ALREADY?
ISN'T THIS ENOUGH?
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
BUT WHENEVER I'D SAY THAT,

I AM IMMORTAL. THIS FLESH, THIS YOUTH, I HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS.
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...

"THIS TIME, NO FOR ALL OF TIME, I WANT TO BE WITH YOU" IS WHAT SHE SAID.
BUT WHEN IS THIS JOURNEY SUPPOSED TO END?
WHAT WILL BE WAITING FOR US?
PROBABLY NOTHING.

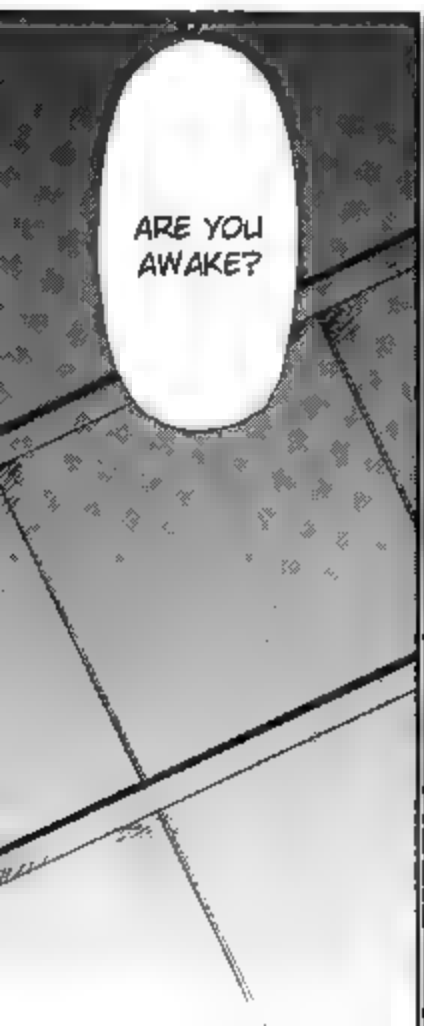
THOSE WHO FIND OUT THAT WE'RE IMMORTAL,
CHASE US RELENT-LESSLY.
WE'VE LIVED THROUGH THE KAMAKURA PERIOD, THE MUROMACHI PERIOD, DUR-ING THE CIVIL WARS,
THE MEIJI PERIOD OF EDO, THE TAISHO ERA, SHOWA ERA, AND HEISEI ERA.

EVEN THROUGH THE PACIFIC WARS.
AND OUR EVER-VIGILANT PURSUERS,
SURVIVED THROUGH THE "GREAT DISASTER".
I CAPTURING ONE OF THE WHITE KINGS SOLDIERS...

AND USED HIS FLESH,
LIVING AS KUROU.

THAT STUFF ABOUT THAT HIROAKI YOKOYAMA GUY, I ONLY FOUND OUT IT WAS HIM AFTERWARD.

BUT WHAT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND,
IS WHY BENKEI WOULD BETRAY ME.
IT MUST MEAN HE WAS WORKING WITH THE KAMAKURA.
BUT WHY?...


ARE YOU AWAKE?

I KNOW THIS WOMAN...

WHY AM I HERE?...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
AH!
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

TONBA DID?
TONBA GAVE YOU EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND SAVED YOU.
HE'S A DOCTOR AFTER ALL.
SO I'VE BEEN OUT FOR TWENTY DAYS?
TWENTY DAYS.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
YES.

KYOTO?!
THE RED EMPEROR'S PALACE.
KYOTO.
WHERE'S HERE?
SO IT WAS YOU.
WE'RE BACK HUH?

I COULD HEAR A HELICOPTER SOUND.
THEN THAT WAS...
YES.
YOU'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE RED EMPEROR?
THE RED EMPEROR'S HELICOPTER.
SINCE A WHILE NOW.

ANOTHER BODY?
AND REPLACED YOUR BODY.
WE TRANSPORTED YOU BY HELICOPTER,
THIS NEW BODY...
WITH SURGERY. TONBA DID A GOOD JOB.
WHO'S IS IT?

SHE'S ALIVE?
YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK KUROMITSU THAT YOURSELF.
YES.
"BECAUSE HE SAVED YOUR LIFE", IS WHAT SHE ARRANGED WITH HIM.
BUT SHE HAD A LOT TO ASK THE RED EMPEROR, SO SHE CAME WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

YOU DON'T?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE IS SHE?
THE RED EMPEROR PUT HER IN RESTRICTIVE CUSTODY, SO EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
WHAT IS?
IT'S STRANGE THOUGH, KUROU.
YOU SEEM LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.

ニヤ
……
I AM KUROU BUT NOT THE SAME ONE.
I'VE BEEN TEN DIFFERENT VERSION UP TO THIS POINT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
A DIF-FERENT PER-SON?
EXCEPT NOW I CAN REMEMBER MOST OF MY MEMORIES.

SO SHE STILL DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS?
WHAT STRANGE PEOPLE YOU AND KUROMITSU ARE...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS?
WILL YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT?
IF WE GET A CHANCE,
SURE.

YEAH, THEY HAVE.
SO YOUR MEMORIES HAVE RETURNED?
YEAH.
YOU CAN REMEMBER THEM?

SOMETIME YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH ME THAT.
EVERY-THING.
EVERY-THING?
YOU SHOULD REMEMBER.
TEACH YOU WHAT?
THEN AFTERWARD THEY INJECTED ME WITH YOUR BLOOD.
YOU DRANK MY BLOOD.

MY STRENGTH ALSO IN-CREASED,
AND MY WOUNDS HEAL QUICKLY NOW.
AND THEN MY BODY BECAME LIKE YOURS.
HAVE YOU STOPPED AGING?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'LL KNOW IN TEN YEARS.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?
THE RED EMPEROR. YOU WERE PROBABLY GOING TO WAKE UP SOON, SO I STAYED WITH YOU.
WHY?
HE HASN'T COME TO SEE YOU.
SEEMS HE'S BUSY.
MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DEAL WITH THAN YOU.

KUROMITSU.
MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME?
THAT'S THE FEELING I GET.
WHAT DID HE WANT TO TALK TO HER ABOUT?
IT LOOKED LIKE HE WANTED TO TALK TO HER BEFORE YOU WOKE UP.
NO IDEA.

BUT HE AND HER ARE ALONE RIGHT NOW
IN HIS SECRET ROOM.
SECRET ROOM...

IT'S THAT ROOM.
DON'T ENTER THIS ROOM!
THAT'S WHERE KUROMITSU IS.

EVERY-
THING'S IN
THE NEXT
ROOM.
WHERE
ARE MY
CLOTHES?
YOUR
CLOTHES.
AND
YOUR
WEAP-
ONS.
BRING
THEM
HERE.

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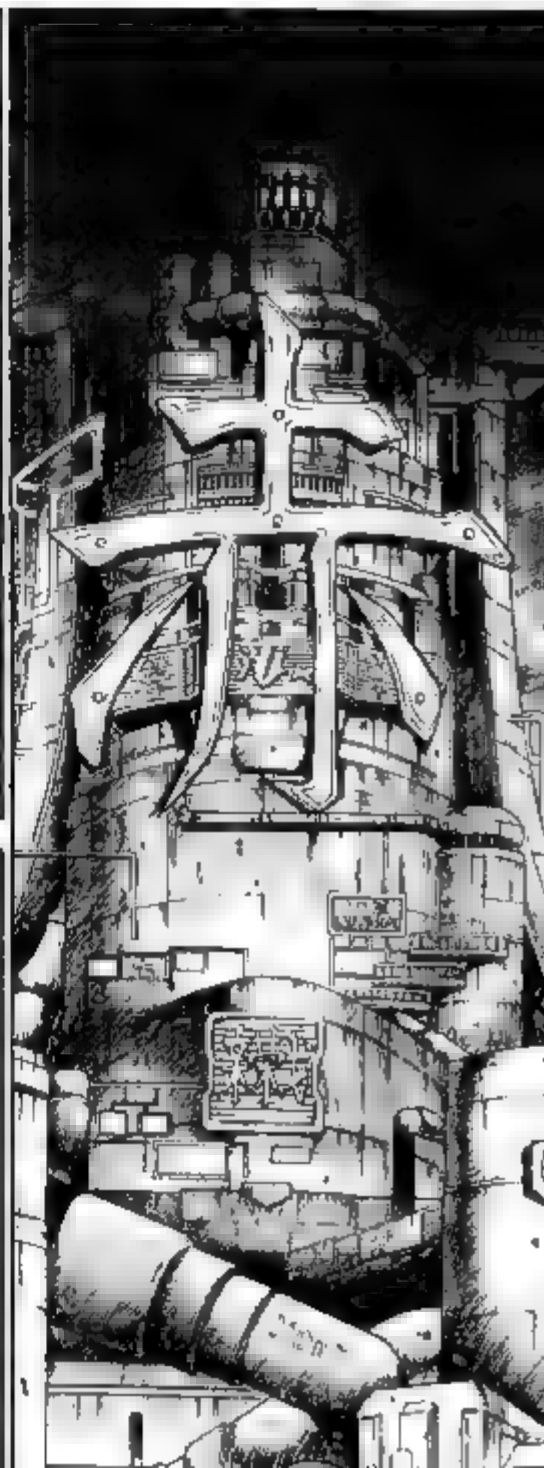
# Chapter 39 Tears of bitterness



REALLY?

YOU'RE STARTING TO SEE WHO I REALLY AM.
EVEN YOUR WAY OF TALKING CHANGED.
S-SURE...
ONLY A PART?
THE KUROU YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IS ONLY ONE PART OF ME.

I'VE BEEN CALLED BY MANY NAMES IN THE PAST.
THE NAME KUROU IS ONE NAME I'VE GONE BY.
BUT NOW I JUST GO BY IT OUT OF CONVENIENCE, AND DON'T MIND IT.
IT'S EASIER FOR ME,
TO CALL YOU BY THAT NAME TOO.

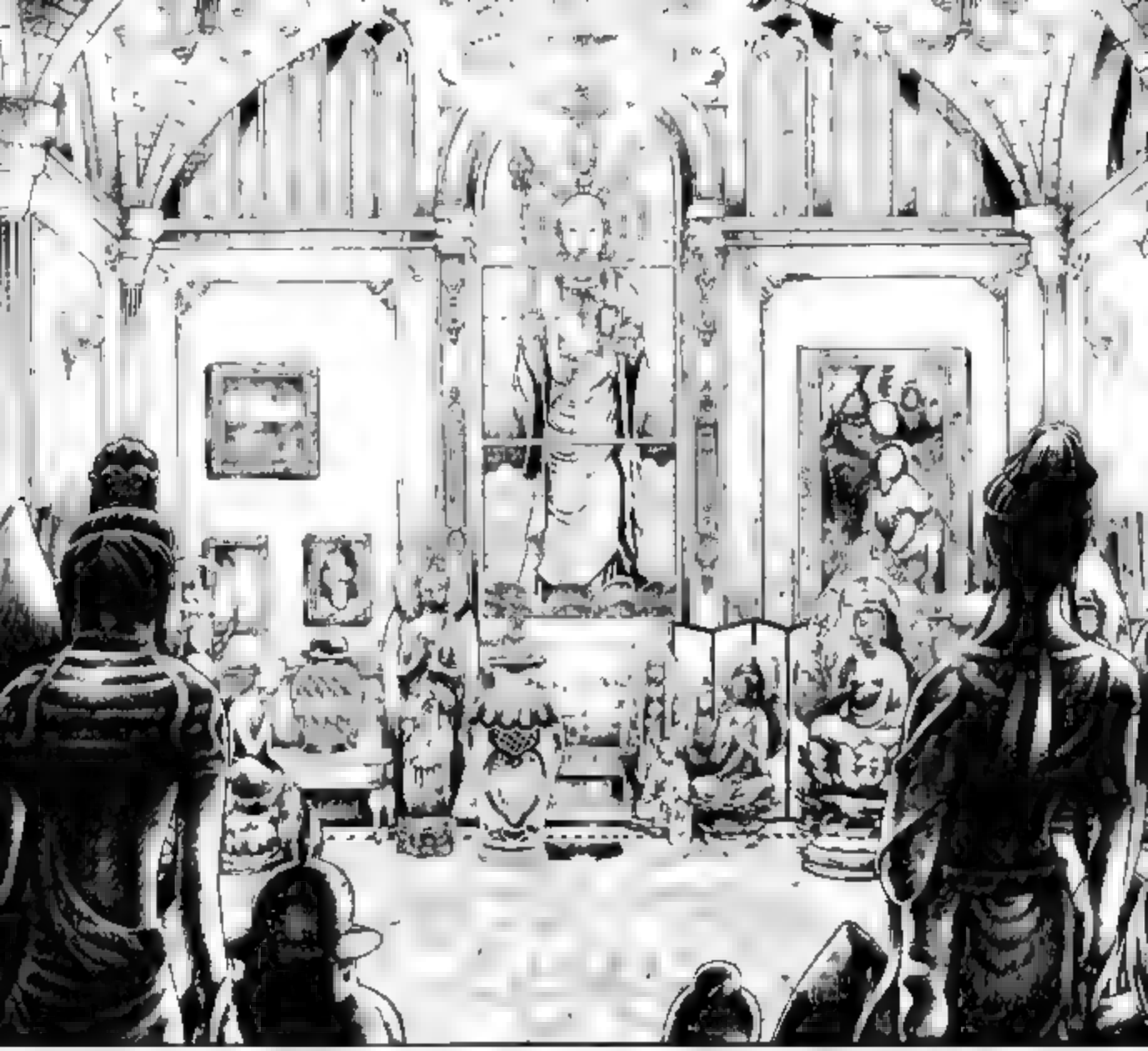
WHERE?
LET'S GET GOING.

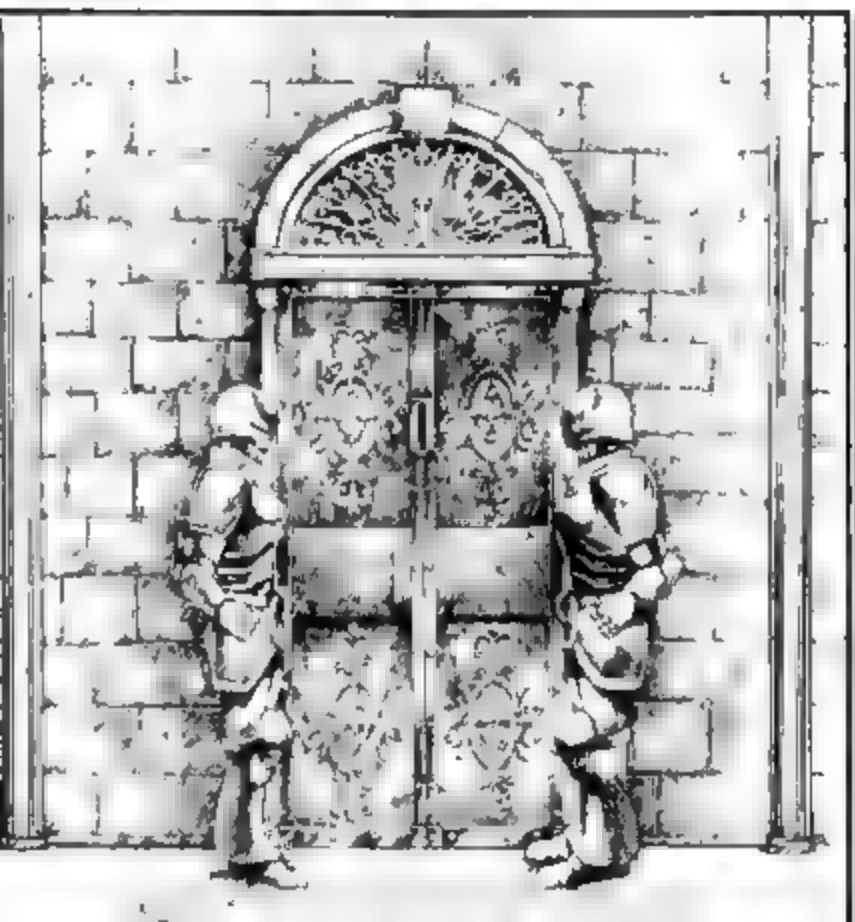
TO GO SEE THE RED EMPEROR AND KUROMITSU.
THEY'RE BEHIND THAT DOOR OF HIS.

YES SIR.
YOU KNOW MY FACE, DON'T YOU.

I'VE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO ALLOW ANYONE ENTRY PAST THIS POINT.
THEN MOVE.
EXCEPT FOR ME.
SO MOVE.
I MUST TALK WITH THE RED EMPORER AND YOU ARE DELAYING ME.
UNDERSTOOD. BUT HE SAID ONLY KUROU-SAMA COULD PASS.
YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T LET ME THROUGH.

I'LL WAIT HERE, KUROU.
YOU GO.
WHAT?!
OK OK.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN RAI CAN.
AL-RIGHT.

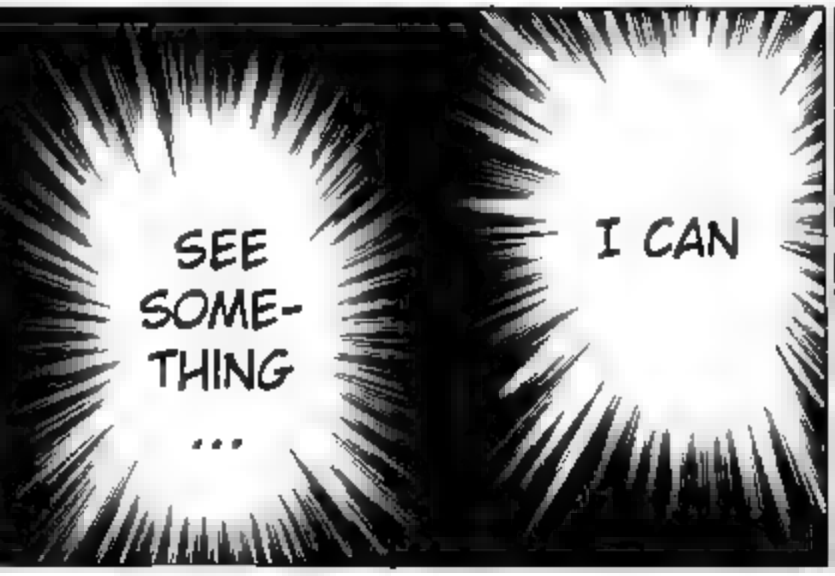




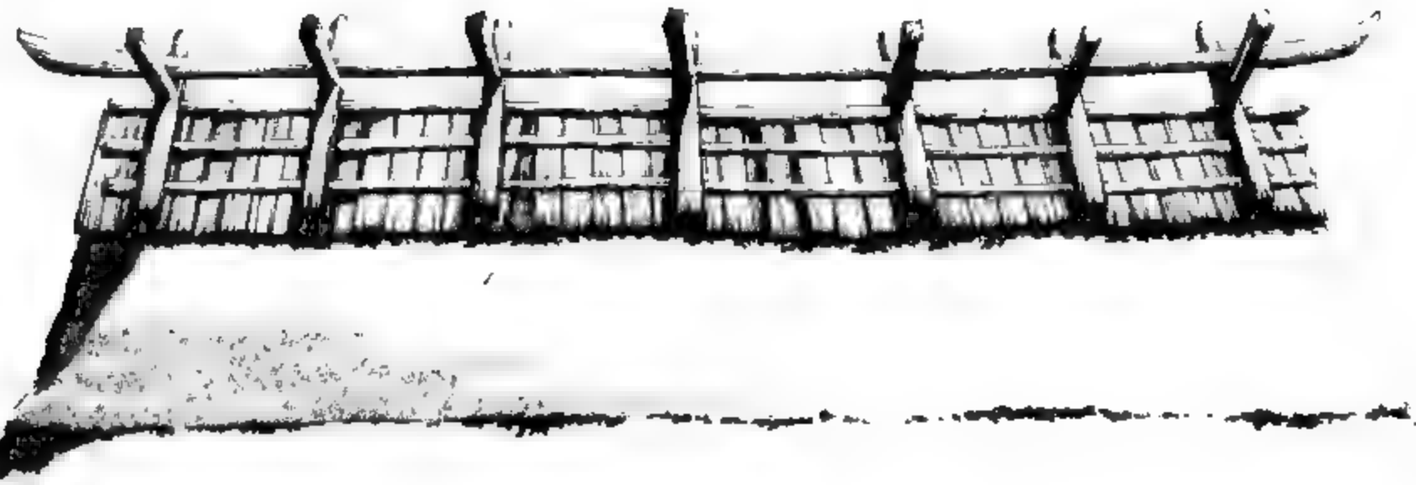
"DON'T COME THROUGH THIS DOOR."
THIS IS WHERE THE RED EMPEROR AND KUROMITSU ARE.

DIRT?

WHAT IS THIS?


I CAN
SEE
SOME-
THING
...

WHAT'S
OVER
THERE?
WHAT
IS
THAT?



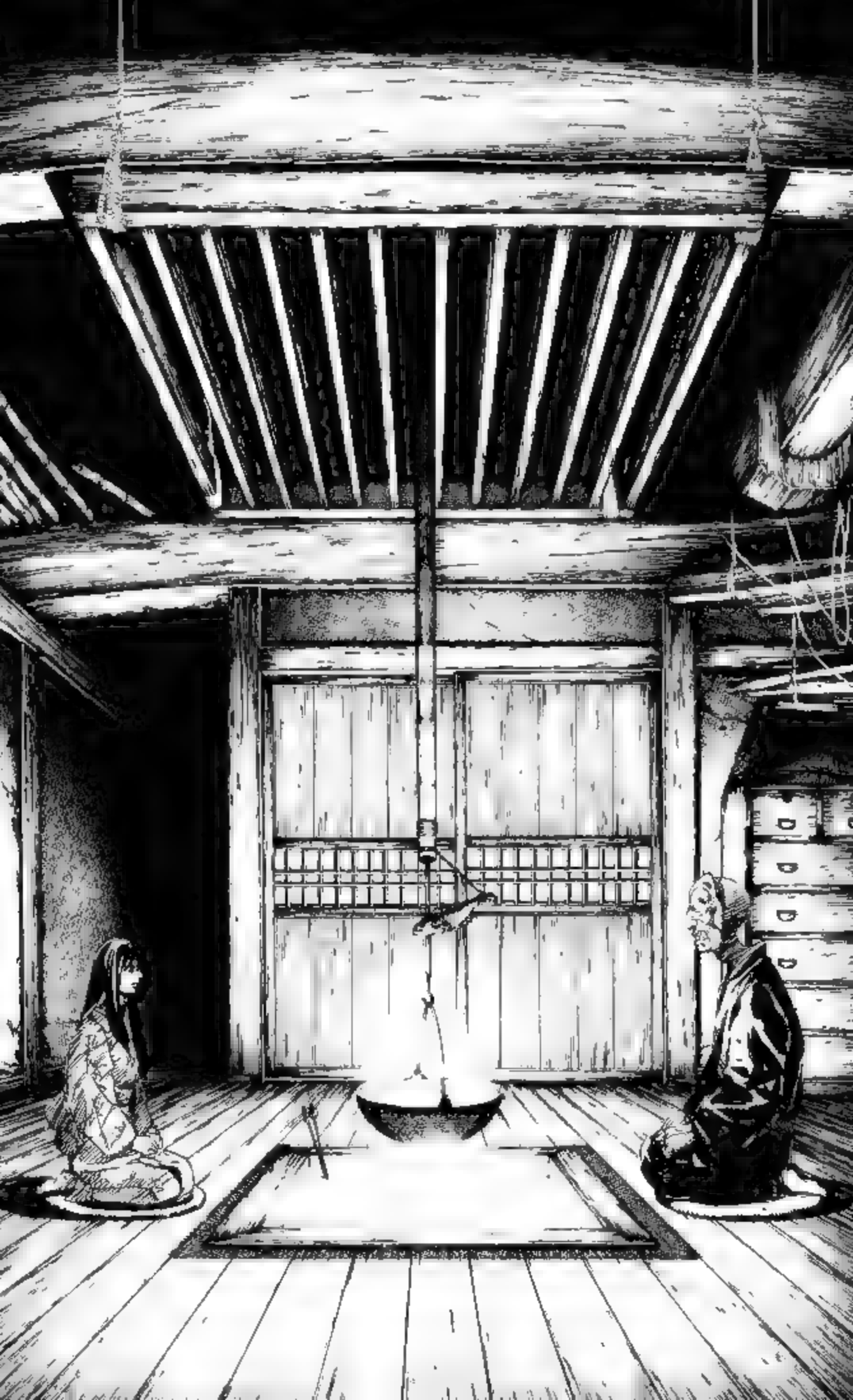
100 YEARS AGO?
SOMETHING FROM THE PAST.
NO, EVEN FURTHER BACK THAN THAT.
300, 400, 500 YEARS.
200 YEARS? NO.

カリ
カリ

I LIVED IN THIS SMALL HUT.
OLDER THAN EVEN 1000 YEARS.
FOR MONTHS ON END.
WHAT PEACEFUL DAYS THOSE WERE.
EVERYTHING STARTED IN THAT LITTLE HUT.
MUSASHI.
WITH KUROMITSU AND,

WHY IS THIS THING HERE?
EVEN IF I TRY TO FORGET, I CAN'T.
A LIGHT.

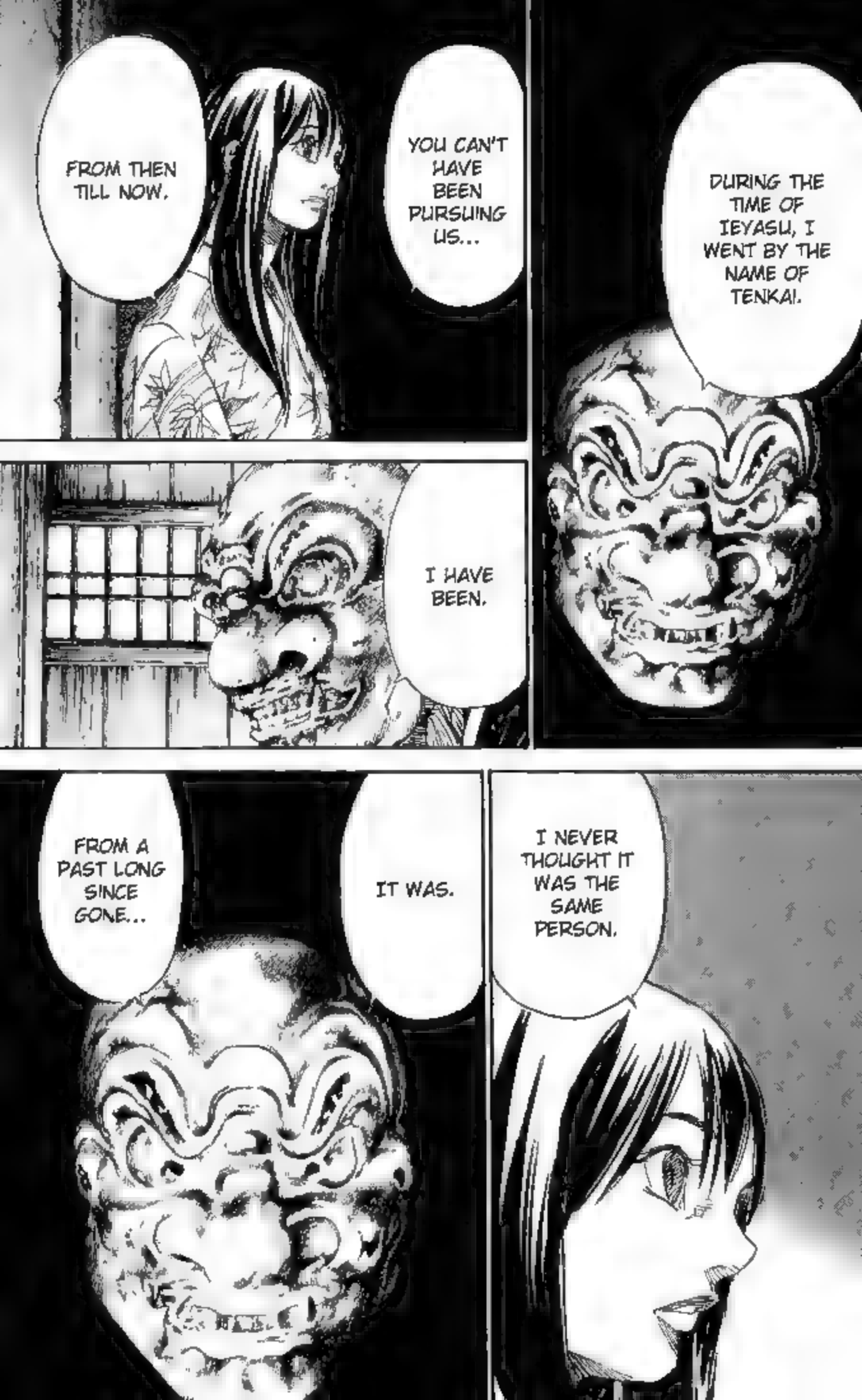
AND THE VOICE OF A MAN AND WOMAN.
AND AN ODOR.



I HAD IT MOVED.
BUT WHY?
WHY IS THIS HOUSE HERE?...
DURING THE KAMAKURA PERIOD.
FROM MICHI-NOKU?
THE KAMAKURA PERIOD?
YES.

NEXT WAS OSAKA THEN EDO.
WHEN EDO CHANGED TO TOKYO, I HAD IT MOVED TO HERE.
BUT AFTER THAT, I HAD IT MOVED BACK HERE AGAIN.
AND KYOTO MET WITH THE "GREAT DISASTER"
YES.
IT LOOKS LIKE,
YOU'VE DONE ALL THAT YOU SAID YOU WOULD.

I WORKED IN THE KAMAKURA AS WELL.
IT CAN'T BE...
HOW IN THE WORLD.
AND I SERVED NOBUNAGA
AND HIDEYOSHI.


FROM THEN TILL NOW.
YOU CAN'T HAVE BEEN PURSUING US...
DURING THE TIME OF IEYASU, I WENT BY THE NAME OF TENKAI.
I HAVE BEEN.
FROM A PAST LONG SINCE GONE...
IT WAS.
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WAS THE SAME PERSON.

YES, I AM THE SAME AS YOU.
THEN THAT MEANS,
I POSSESS THE SAME BODY THAT DOES NOT DIE.

ㄏㄏㄏ
YOU DON'T AGE?
BY THE WAY, ABOUT KUROU.
YOU GAVE HIS BODY TO KUROU?
KUON WAS THE NAME WAS IT NOT?
YOU SAID HIS HEAD WAS MOVED?

I RECEIVED A REPORT FROM RAI, THAT KUON AND KUROU ARE IDENTICAL,
AND THAT THEY POSSESS BODIES CLOSE TO IMMORTAL.
THAT IS COR-RECT.
EXACTLY.
YES.
I'VE ALSO BEEN CARELESS LIKE THAT WITH HUMANS. YOU MADE KUON, DIDN'T YOU.

I TAKE IT THAT'S CORRECT.
WERE YOU PLANNING TO GIVE HIS BODY TO KUROU FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
WHAT? WHAT ARE THESE TWO TALKING ABOUT?
IT CAN'T BE, THIS BODY IS KUON'S THEN?

SO YOU'VE CHOSEN KUROU.
IT WAS AN EMERGENCY. HE WAS BLEEDING BADLY,
DON'T SAY IT...
IF HE WAS LEFT AS HE WAS, HIS LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN DANGER AS WELL.
THEN LET ME BEGIN WITH,
WHAT ARE YOU?

THE LEGENDARY 800 YEAR OLD PRIESTESS.
DO YOU KNOW OF THE TALE?

THERE WAS A MYSTERIOUS PRIESTESS IN THE EDO PERIOD,
WHO NEVER SEEMED TO AGE.
HER ORIGINS ARE ASSUMED A MYSTERY, BUT WHEN ASKED AROUND, THE TALE ACTUALLY CAME OF THE COUNTRY OF WAKASA,
WHERE SHE ATE THE FLESH OF A MERMAID AND STOPPED AGING.
EVEN YOSHITSUNE MINAMOTO TALKED OF THAT WHEN I MET HIM.

IS THIS NOT A TALE ABOUT YOU, KUROMITSU-DONO?
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
A WAR?
YES, WITH KANTOU.
CURRENTLY WE ARE IN A WAR.

HIS ARMIES ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO CROSS INTO HAKONE.
IT SEEMS HE KNOWS HIS SON HAS BEEN KILLED, SO THE PREVIOUS WHITE KING IS MOVING HIS ARMIES.
THE WHITE EMPEROR?
BUT EVEN IN KANSAI, THERE IS STILL ONE PROBLEM BREWING.
RIGHT NOW, MY ELITE ARE FIGHTING THEM ON HAKONE MOUNTAIN.
TONBA HAS ENTERED AND MET WITH IZANA IT LOOKS LIKE, AND HAVE ENTERED INTO TALK.

ME?
SOMEHOW, HE WANTS TO RESCUE YOU FROM MY HANDS.
YOU COULD KILL ME AND LEAVE ANYTIME YOU WANTED.
NOT ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD ANYWAY.
BUT, THERE'S PROBABLY NO ONE WHO COULD STOP YOU FROM DOING AS YOU PLEASE.

AH
BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO THAT. AND BECAUSE I COULDN'T KILL YOU...
AH
AH!
AH

IT...
IT...
IT...

KURO-MITSU-DONO...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET YOU.

THE LAST 100 YEARS, JUST ONCE, NO MATTER WHAT,

YOU'RE ...

BEFORE THAT, I WAS STILL LIVING, AND I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO.
THE 100 YEARS BEFORE THAT, I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE POSSIBLE.
AND YET I STILL DIDN'T DIE...
YEARS PASSED BY, AND MY AGE PILED UP.
I'D ALREADY MET YOU, SO I THOUGHT IN THE NEXT 100 YEARS I WOULD AGAIN, BUT THEN IN THE NEXT 100, I GAVE UP.
COMPARED TO A YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU, EVEN AS I CONTINUED TO AGE,

I WOULDN'T DIE. AND AFTER ANOTHER 100 YEARS,
I AM FINALLY ABLE TO MEET YOU.
I AM THE MONK MUSASHI.

THERE'S NO WAY, BUT...
IT'S UNMISTAK-ABLY YOU...
HOW?
MUSASHI-DONO!!
AFTER 1000 YEARS, I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU....

IT'S BEEN AN EXTREMELY LENGTHY SEPARATION.
THAT TIME, WHEN I CUT OFF MY MASTER'S HEAD, YOSHITSUNE KUROU,
SOME OF THE BLOOD THAT FELL FROM THE HEAD ENTERED MY MOUTH.

IF I DRINK HUMAN BLOOD, THE AGING WILL SLOW DOWN,
I CANNOT DIE, ONLY TO CONTINUE LIVING, ACCUMULATING AGE AS TIME GOES ON.
AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I'VE TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.
BUT I HAVE GIVEN UP ON THAT.
I,
I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR YOU, KUROMITSU-DONO...

WHO FOR MORE THAN 1000 YEARS, HAVE THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE BUT YOU, AND SPOKEN OF NOTHING BUT YOUR NAME.
SINCERELY, I ADORE YOU. I'VE LIVED ALL THIS TIME JUST TO TELL YOU THESE WORDS.
THEN WHY?...
WHY DID YOU DO THAT TO US?

I AM OBSESSED WITH YOU, THAT IS WHY.
THE TIMES I SAW YOU AND THE MASTER TOGETHER, IT WAS LIKE MY HEART WAS BREAKING IN HALF.
UNABLE TO ENDURE THE PAINFULNESS, A JEALOUS DEMON TOOK HOLD OF ME AND EVENTU-ALLY...
EVENTU-ALLY...
I WENT TO THE KAMAKURA.

WITH THE MASTER OUT OF THE WAY, YOU'D HAVE TURNED TO ME, BUT WITHOUT THAT PLAN COMING TO FRUITION,
1000 YEARS I STAYED ALIVE PURSUING YOU.
THEN IT WAS YOU?
NO...
YES, IT WAS I WHO CON-TROLLED THEM.
BECAUSE OF THE MASTER'S BLOOD THAT FELL DOWN MY THROAT.
HOW IS THAT?

THAT IS WHY MY BODY LOOKS AS IT DOES BUT REFUSED TO DIE...
THEN IT STILL HAS SOME EFFECT.
NO.
I HAVE THAT CONDITION AS WELL.
YOU ARE NOT OF THE EXCEPTION?

I AM STILL LIVING.
AND I STILL AGE.
IF YOU ARE NOT THEN...
COR-RECT.
EVEN THEN,
YOU WERE SO BEAUTI-FUL.
YOU STILL LOOK THE SAME AS WHEN I MET YOU. 1000 YEARS AGO.

WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT FROM THE PERSON YOU GOT IT FROM?
I STILL ACCEPT THE CONDITION OF THIS BLOOD'S STRENGTH.
ARE THEY STILL LIVING?
WERE THEY UNHAPPY?
WERE THEY HAPPY?
IS NOT A LONG LIFE WHAT HUMAN HAPPINESS IS?

YES.
YOU UNDER-STAND THAT TOO, DON'T YOU?
HIS EYES HELD EXTREME SADNESS, AND YET HIS FACE DID NOT.
HE WAS A DEAD BODY OF A FOREIGNER WASHED UP ON THE SHORE NEAR WAKASA WHEN WE MET.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?
A FOR-EIGNER?
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU?

AND HIS BODY ABSORBED,
SOME OF MY BLOOD.
WE WERE TOGETHER FOR A SHORT MONTH, AND THEN HE LEFT.
WERE YOU HIS COMPANION?
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO THE EAST.
HE LEFT YOU?

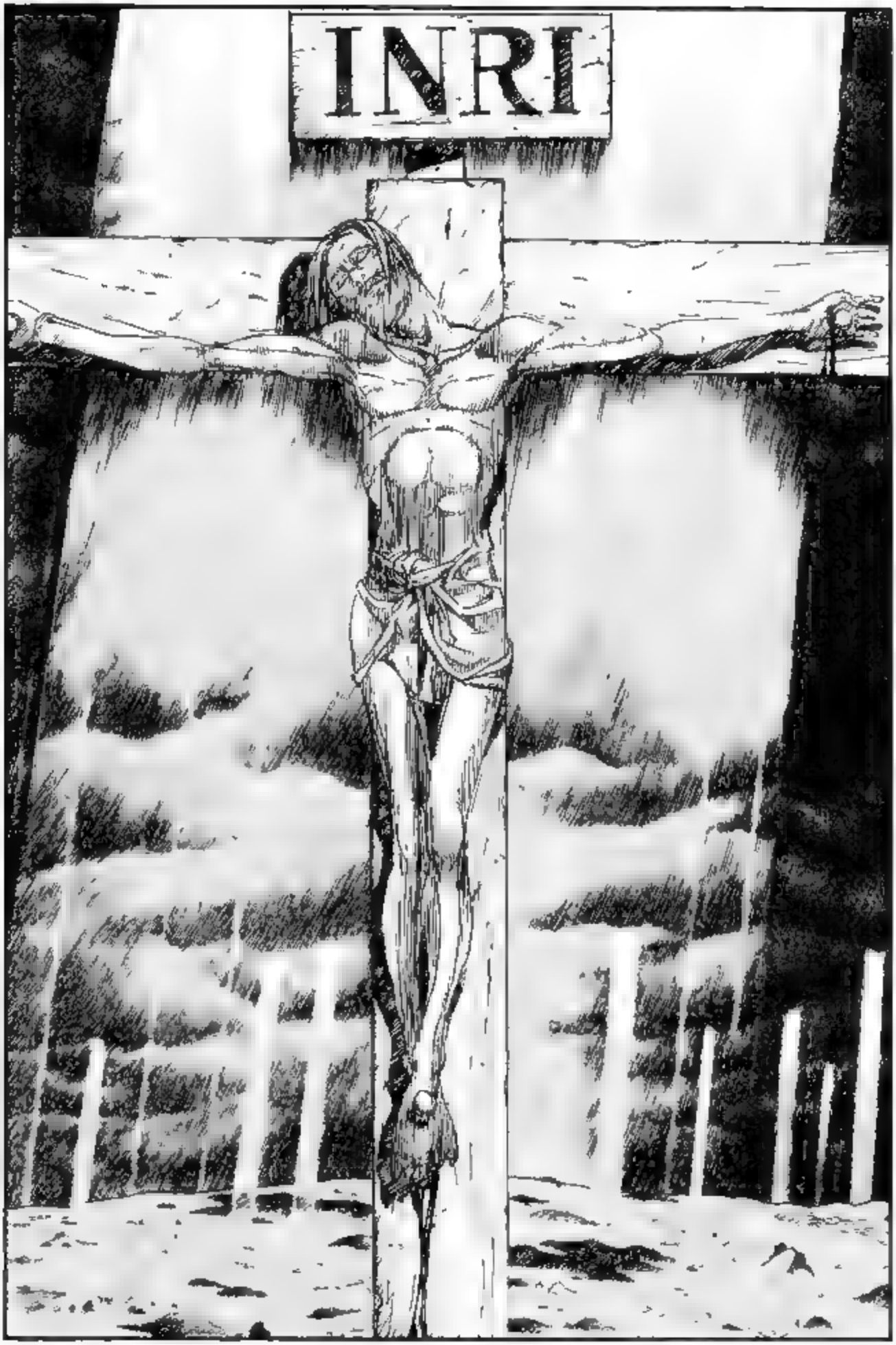
"THAT'S WHERE HEAVEN'S COUNTRY IS." HE SAID....
WHO WAS HE?
THAT'S WHERE HE CAME FROM.
HEAVEN'S COUNTRY?

I HAVE SOME IDEA.
AND NOW?
I DIDN'T KNOW THEN.
HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO.
NO... THOUGH, IT WAS MORE LIKE,
AND YOU DIDN'T GO WITH HIM?
BECAUSE OF WHAT HE TOLD ME.
FOR WHAT REASON?

I, AS ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES, OFFERED MY BLOOD.
HE TOOK IT AND I SAW HIM CURE A LOT OF SICK PEOPLE.
I AM A MAN WHO HAS BETRAYED HIS MASTER.
HE WOULD OFTEN SAY WINE HE OFFERED WAS HIS BLOOD.
WINE TO GET TO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM.

IT WAS IMMORTAL BLOOD.
HE SAID HIS BLOOD HAD BECOME SACRED.
TO ANYONE.
BUT HE WOULDN'T GIVE THAT BLOOD,
IT WOULD ALLOW ONE TO GO TO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM.
HE SAID THAT BY EXCHANG-ING BLOOD WITH A PERSON,

AT THE LAST OF THE LAST SUPPERS,
BECAUSE MY DESIRE FOR THAT BLOOD WAS TOO GREAT,
TO A CROSS.
AND THEY NAILED HIM,
THEN, BY MY HANDS, I HAD HIM ARRESTED,
I SUCKED THAT BLOOD FROM HIM.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http://www.iryuu.net
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# Chapter 40 (Last Chapter) | Confession, And then...

YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY IT.
JUST AS HE BETRAYED HIS MASTER,
I AM GUILTY OF THE SAME SIN.
HE NEVER SHARED HIS NAME WITH ME BUT IF WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE,
HIS NAME WAS...
OH BENKEI ....

NO.
NO.
NO.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG, KUROMITSU-DONO?

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?!
KURO-MITSU-DONO!!
STOP!!

STOP THERE MUSASHI!

AND YET NONE DARE ESCAPE MY MOUTH.
MANY WORDS HAVE WELDED UP INSIDE ME ALL THIS TIME,
OH, YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA!!
EXCEPT ...
EXCEPT ...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA ...

OH!
KURO-
MITSU-
DONO!
THAT
FACE
...

KURO-
MITSU-
DONO?...
I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
FOR A
WHILE...
YES.
I AM
KUROMITSU,
AND
SANIWA.

HOW?
AS A MEMBER OF "HANIWA", I AM THE ONE IN COMMUNICATION WITH KUROMITSU,
AND IRONICALLY IN TRUTH, AM HER AS WELL.
IT APPEARS AS IF OLD AGE RACKS MY BODY LIKE THIS.
OVER THE LAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS, IF I DO NOT DRINK BLOOD,
BECOME KUROMITSU AND COME IN CONTACT WITH "HANIWA".
ONLY WHEN IT IS NECESSARY FOR ME TO BECOME KUROMITSU DO I DRINK BLOOD AND TURN YOUNG,

WHAT REASON IS THERE NOT TO HAVE CONTACTED ME THESE LAST 100 YEARS?
I WANTED TO.
EVEN WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES, OH HOW I WANTED TO.
BUT WOULD YOU HAVE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS ME?
WOULD YOU LET THE ME AS I AM NOW BEHEAD YOU?

WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP SILENT ABOUT ME TO THE RED EMPEROR?
I DON'T KNOW.
NO, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE.
WHEN I WAS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE RED EMPEROR...
I EVEN ATTACKED THE OONAMUCHI PEOPLE,
IN ORDER TO FORM THE RED EMPEROR'S COUNTRY.
I HAD TO WAIT A HUNDRED YEARS UNTIL YOUR BODY TURNED WEAK.

IF I DID THAT, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE INCLINED TO LISTEN TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY.
BUT TO THINK THAT THE RED EMPEROR WAS MUSASHI...
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA, FOR ALL THAT I HAVE DONE,
WILL YOU TAKE MY LIFE?
"I'M THE ONE WHO BETRAYED YOU,"
"AND HAVE CONTINUED TO PURSUE YOU FOR THE LAST 1000 YEARS."

JUST ONCE MORE I WANTED TO MEET KUROMITSU-SAMA ALL THIS TIME.
TO SAY TO HER THAT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I LONGED FOR... UNTIL I SAID THAT... UNTIL I SAID THAT...
BUT I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO TELL YOU THESE THINGS.
1000 YEARS ...

FOR THESE PAST 1000 YEARS YOU'VE BEEN CARRY-ING AROUND THIS GRUDGE, FOR TOO LONG.
BENKEI, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CURSE ME.
I'M GLAD THAT WE GOT TO MEET AGAIN.
BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL HOLDING THOSE FEELING IN YOUR HEART ALL THIS TIME. I NEVER REALIZED.

PLEASE KILL ME...
YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA...
I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY BENKEI ...
THAT WON'T BE HAPPEN-ING...

KUON?!

YOU'RE ALIVE?
BEEN A WHILE, KUROU.
AREN'T YOU?

FROM TONBA.
I GOT A BODY WITHOUT A HEAD.
BUT YOUR HEAD WAS..
BUT...
THIS IS YOUR OLD ONE.
THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER HEADLESS ONES...
IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN THEN, RIGHT? AND BESIDES MY BODY,

ALRIGHT.
GET OUTSIDE, KUROU, AND LET'S SETTLE THIS.
KUROU-SAMA!

THE WINNER CLAIMS THAT WOMAN AS THEIR OWN.
SHA!

SHA!

YOU FINALLY DRAW HUH?
HUH?!
GUA!

KEE!

BENKEI-
SAMA!

GOOD JOB KUROU-DONO.
YOU WERE FINALLY ABLE TO MEET HER.
WELL, IF IT ISN'T SANIWA-SAMA.
AND KUROU-DONO.
WOULD YOU HELP ME WITH THIS?
HERE.
A HEAD.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE, TONBA?

SHE GAVE US SOME UNFORTUNATE OPPOSITION.
SO, WE HAD TO CHOP HER HEAD OFF.
YEP, AND IT WAS GOOD!
YOU DRANK RAI'S BLOOD, DIDN'T YOU.

SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
KUROU.
IT'S THAT WOMAN, THE OLD ONE!
SHE'S KURO-MITSU!!
IT'S HER! IT'S HER!
SHE HAS THE IMMORTAL BLOOD!

GIVE IT TO ME!
OTHER-WISE WE'LL CUT OFF YOUR HEAD!
THAT'S HER?
LET US DRINK YOUR BLOOD!
WAIT!!
DON'T MOVE! OTHERWISE I'LL KILL THIS WOMAN!

UGH!!

ドサ

LET ME...
DIE...
KU... KURO-MITSU ...
SAMA ...
BY YOUR SIDE...

OH KLION ...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE BEEN CALLED THAT...
BENKEI ...
FLEE?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
YEAH.
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO FLEE?

MOVE!
HU-
MANS
!!!!

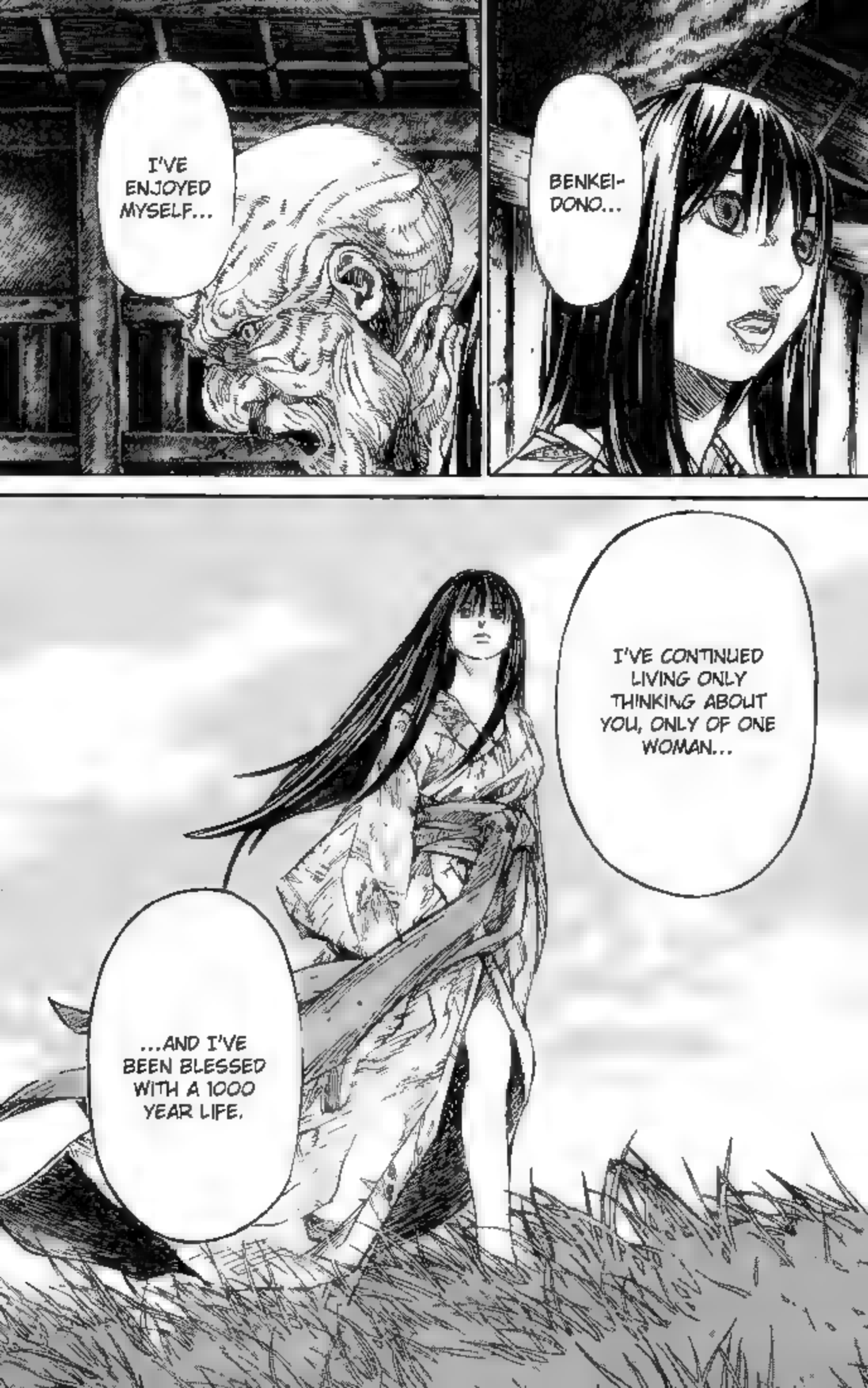
TAKE THE BLOOD.

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!

OH MY GOD!
IT'S A MIRA-CLE!

IF WE DRINK THE BLOOD...
IT'S THE BLOOD!
IT'S THE REAL DEAL!!
IT'S ALREADY...
YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA..
TO REGRET ANYTHING.
TOO LATE FOR ME..

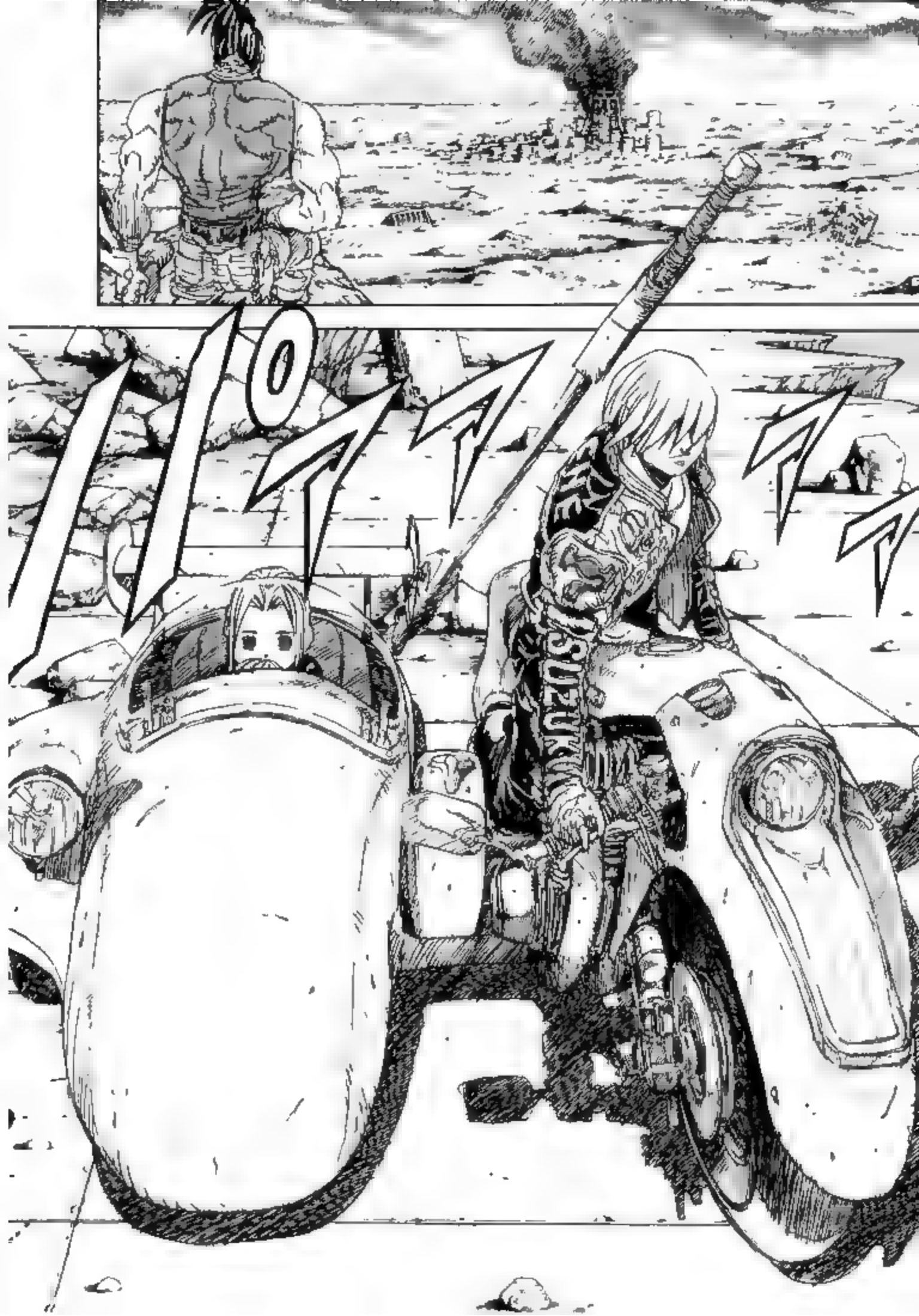
I WILL HOLD THEM OFF.
PLEASE FLEE FROM HERE, THE TWO OF YOU.


I'VE ENJOYED MYSELF...
BENKEI-DONO...
I'VE CONTINUED LIVING ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOU, ONLY OF ONE WOMAN...
...AND I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH A 1000 YEAR LIFE.

LEAVE!
BENKEI!
PLEASE CONTINUE LIVING ON!
YOU'RE FATED TO BE TO-GETHER!!

PLEASE LIVE ON!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE COME TO REALIZE!!

GO!
GAH!
AL-
RIGHT!



IT'S YOU AGAIN.
CHAMPION

ME? NO FUCKING WAY.
WHAT A SURPRISE, I HEARD YOU WERE DEAD.
OH?
YEP.
WHAT'VE YOU COME TO KYOTO FOR?
CHASING AFTER KURO-MITSU?

NO.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE CASTLE?
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHO ARE YOU?... I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON HIS SIDE.
TO CONFIRM THE RED EMPEROR'S DEATH.

THEN YOU'RE HIS...
I'M THE SAME AS YOU.
I SEE.
SOMETIMES IN MY DREAMS,
I CAN SEE HIS 1000 YEAR LIFE.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, I HAVE THOSE TOO.
HIS MEMORIES.
ME TOO.
SO WHAT NOW?
ARE YOU GONNA CHASE KUROMITSU TILL YOU CATCH HER?

IF YOU MAKE IT OUT ALIVE, LET'S MEET UP.
YEAH.
SEE YEAH.

IT'S THAT WOMAN!
THE ONE WITH THE BLOOD!!

MOVE IT!!

I SAID MOVE!!
GET OUT OF OUR WAY, HUMANS !!!!!

KUROZUKA
END

■ジャンプ・コミックス　デラックス

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